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nonresidential will be available to match these young people with the appropriate placement. This bill will help to coordinate the effort by clarifying the existing law. LB 598 will increase the flexibility for the Office of Juvenile Services, and will facilitate the shortening of youth detention time, since multiple placements could be considered if one or more possible placements are full. This would also help to alleviate a situation where a specific court-ordered placement could be set up contempt of court problems if a specified placement has no available beds, thereby inhibiting timely placement by the Office of Juvenile Services. LB 598 does not prohibit the courts from continuing to make direct placements into the YRTCs, the youth development centers. The bill does not reduce or otherwise change the numbers of juveniles in treatment, but will promote more efficiency in relation to the treatment of those juveniles within the system. The bill does not prohibit or otherwise adversely affect the ability of the courts to specify the level of treatment that should be provided to each juvenile that falls within the court's jurisdiction. The increased flexibility by the department will allow for the proper matching of juveniles' specific placements within identified treatment levels, since the Office of Juvenile Services has a needed familiarity with placement resources, and knows the strength and weaknesses of those resources. I urge your support for sending LB 598 through the legislative process. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Chair of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Brashear, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the committee amendments specify the intent of LB 598 by addressing concerns the juvenile court judges had with language which was used in the green copy of the bill. The first change to the bill strikes language directing the committing court to order the initial level of treatment as defined by the Office of Juvenile Services rules and regulations and case management standards for each level. The language directing the committing court to order the initial level of treatment for a juvenile committed to the Office of Juvenile Services is set out in a...in a specific statute that precedes the bill...where the